

Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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INDIAN LEGISLATION — 85th CONGRESS

Following are summaries of various issues, pending or in prospect, affecting Indian Americans.

Government Policy Toward Indians

In 1953 Congress declared that Federal responsibility in Indian affairs should be terminated at the earliest possible date (H. Con. Res. 108). There has been continuing criticism of this policy among the Indian organizations since. An alternative policy is proposed in legislation sponsored by Senator Murray of Montana and others: that termination should not be imposed upon Indians, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs should concentrate upon helping Indian communities raise their living standards (S. Con. Res. 3; H. Con. Res. 160).

Hearings on S. Con. Res. 3 were held in May and July. The Department of Interior testified that "passage of this resolution would be most unfortunate" as any reversal of H. Con. Res. 108 might discourage Indian initiative. S. Con. Res. 3 has not been reported to the Senate and no action has been taken on H. Con. Res. 155 and H. Con. Res. 160.

Consent Legislation

Several bills were introduced this session (S. 331, H.R. 3494, H.R. 3790) to require Indian consent before jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters on Indian reservations may be turned over to a state (see Public Law 280, 83rd Congress).

Termination Deferred

Termination of federal supervision over the Klamath and Menominee Indians was approved by Congress in 1954 and scheduled for completion in 1958. Neither of these programs has proceeded as planned and this year bills were introduced to extend final termination to 1961 (Klamath—S. 469, Menominee—H.R. 6322).

S. 469 was amended by Congress to provide for final termination as of August 1960; it was signed by the President August 14. H.R. 6322 passed the House August 19, was amended and passed the Senate August 26. The Conferees were unable to meet and agree on a compromise bill, so H. R. 6322 carries over to 1958.

Sanitation Bills

The economy drive stalled action on bills by Senator Chavez (S. 1498) and Congressmen Judd (H.R. 246) and Udall (H.R. 2894) to authorize desperately needed Indian sanitation facilities.

State of Indian Health

The Public Health Service has recently released a 344 page report on Health Services For The American Indian, which should be considered in determining the need for the sanitation legislation referred to above, and when appropriations for Indian health activities are considered by Congress next year.

The report states:

"Indians of the United States today have health problems resembling in many respects those of the general population of the Nation a generation ago. Diseases that are largely controlled among the general population still cause widespread illness and death among Indians." . . .

"Lack of health services is not alone responsible for poor health among Indians. Substandard and overcrowded housing and lack of adequate sanitary facilities have been among the factors promoting disease. Often water is scarce and from contaminated sources. Indian reservations typically are in re-

mote and sparsely settled areas. Even today, many Indians have less than grade school education. They are poor; more than half have family incomes under \$1,000 a year. Those who receive any substantial income from oil or other natural resources are a small minority."

The close relationship between the poor health of Indians and their poverty is repeatedly brought out.

Greatest health problem among the Indians, according to the report, are: tuberculosis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, diarrhea and other enteric diseases, accidents, eye and ear diseases and defects, dental disease, and mental illness. "Most of these problems are especially severe among infants and children."

The Indian death rate is far in excess of the country's average.

"In 1953, the total number of deaths among Indians was 42 percent higher than it would have been had each age group among the Indians had the average death rate for that age group in the United States. For Indian children, the death rate was more than double the national average."

In order to achieve good health the report says:

"Indians need more than measures aimed directly at disease prevention and control. They need better general education, vocational training, housing, food, roads, and means of transportation. They also need more understanding and acceptance by the rest of the population, particularly their own non-Indian neighbors; and adequate economic opportunities." (Memo from Washington office, December 15)

HOUSING

Bill In Legislature

Heartened by their New York City victory last fall, the forces bent on outlawing discrimination in private housing are moving in on the Legislature in Albany. . . .

. . . The bill was introduced by Senator George R. Metcalf (R) of Auburn and Assemblyman Bertram Baker (D) of Brooklyn, the bi-partisan team responsible for several measures against bias in housing already on the statute books.

This bill is the most far-reaching they have proposed in this field. It would prohibit discrimination based on race, creed, color or national origin in all rentals in privately owned multiple dwellings and on the sale of single family houses in developments of 10 or more. . . .

Essentially the Metcalf-Baker measure is like New York City's Isaacs-Sharkey-Brown bill due to become law on April 1. The main difference lies in the manner in which each provides for its own enforcement.

The enforcement machinery of the city measure is largely one of conciliation. Complaints are screened by the Mayor's Commission on Intergroup Relations with an attempt at an amicable settlement. Unsettled cases will be reviewed by a fair housing practices board. If this board finds that the complainant has been discriminated against, it may instruct the city to ask the Supreme Court for an injunction against the landlord. Thus only a contempt-of-court conviction could result in a penalty.

The Metcalf-Baker bill is more powerful. It provides that complaints be made to the existing state commission against discrimination, which would have the right to go directly into court for an injunction if it found a violation of the law. The state commission, it is believed, would be stronger than the city agencies because of its past experience in enforcing the other state housing laws . . .

(Christian Science Monitor, January 20)

Court Action

An opinion handed down by the Colorado Supreme Court made illegal in the state all restricted covenants on race, color or creed in real estate sales.

The ruling, which was the first by Colorado's highest court on the issue, followed a U. S. Supreme Court decision that a restrictive covenant violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. . . .

The case, which involved the rights of Negroes to buy property in the Ashley's Addition north of City Park in Denver, was regarded by interested attorneys as having far-reaching significance. The court's ruling had the effect of knocking out other restrictive covenants in real estate involving persons of the Jewish faith in several areas in Denver.

Joining in the fight against the restrictive covenants involved in the case before the court, in addition to the parties immediately concerned, were general counsel for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee and others

(From *The State Capitals*, prepared by Bethune Jones, Oct. 11)

Films

A complete package of audio visual materials . . . on the critical subject of changing neighborhoods and housing discrimination will be released some time during this month. (February)

These films are being produced by Dynamic Films, Inc. under the guidance of an advisory committee of people prominent in the intergroup relations field on national and local levels. The films are designed for use by groups in communities not yet directly affected by neighborhood change, to encourage them to consider the problem and to organize themselves to meet it in democratic fashion. Each of the films examines a community in a different phase of change. The first describes a community in which change is a fact; the second is one which feels threatened and in the slidefilm a community leader goes out to meet the problem although his own immediate neighborhood has not yet been affected.

a) "Crisis in Levittown, Pa."

30-minute, 16mm sound motion picture in black and white. A series of interviews with residents both for and against the integration of the first Negro family to move into that community. A revealing study of community attitudes featuring comment and analysis by Dr. Dan Dodson of the Center for Human Relations at New York University.

b) "All The Way Home."

30 minute, 16mm sound motion picture in black and white. A dramatic documentary story of a community thrown into panic when a family stops in front of a "For Sale" sign. Community relationships built up over many years are torn apart. Fear and hysteria are encouraged by irresponsible elements until responsible community leadership asserts itself. Demonstrates in positive fashion that integrated communities can and do work successfully. Exposes the "property value" fallacy and makes a stirring appeal to reason and democratic principles. Written by Muriel Rukeyser. Filmed in a "changing neighborhood" with a fine professional cast.

Each of these productions will be accompanied by a detailed discussion guide, prepared by the Center for Human Relations at New York University

c) "The Good Neighbor"

Sound slidefilm, black and white, approximately 90 frames, 20 minutes. Produced in cooperation with the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. A responsible businessman and community leader, shocked by a newspaper story of racial tension in a nearby neighborhood recognizes the young Negro veteran involved as one of his employees. He decides to investigate, speaks to a representative of the Commission on Human Relations. He discovers things about his neighbors and his own community that he never knew. He gets the facts and figures about discrimination in housing, its causes and effects. He resolves to use his influence and his position in the community to help end discrimination.

These three films are particularly adapted for use by church study, discussion, and action groups interested in improving

housing in their community. The films and the filmstrip themselves present valuable material on housing which can be used as the basis for discussion. The accompanying discussion guides for the film and the film strip contain many valuable aids for the discussion itself.

These films are so new that prints may not be immediately available, but in attempting to rent them, try your denominational film library, or Religious Film Library, 17 Park Place, New York 7, N. Y., or Dynamic Films, Inc., 405 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Two of these films — "All the Way Home" and "Crisis in Levittown" can be rented from the Visual Aids Department, Congregational Christian Churches at the following addresses: 19 South LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill., 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass., 287 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. — Price \$8.00 per rental.

ASSESSMENT OF RACE RELATIONS IN THE SOUTH — 1957

A survey of legal and group action during the year leads to the conclusion that race relations in the Southern States are in a more unsettled and disturbed status than a year ago. The divergent segregationist and desegregationist points of view are held more resolutely now than in the recent past. There is urgent need for realistic and constructive communication on the southern scene, if serious difficulties are to be avoided in the near future.

Several factors operate currently to effect the state of race relations in the South: Segregationists have at their command substantial control of the economy, extensive authority in political affairs, and considerable influence on the publication policies of most media of mass communication. There is, too, the momentum of decades of operation of these resources in behalf of a segregated society. Desegregationists, on the other hand, have the support of an awakened and expressed national concern for the welfare of all the American people. They also have the urgent pressure for freedom on the international front, and the widely proclaimed doctrine of human brotherhood.

One obstacle to favorable race relations is the misinformation about the national welfare. Public officials representing the South rarely make it clear in their talks or writings that America's welfare depends critically upon the strength of democracy at home. These spokesmen often express the opposite opinion, saying in effect that the international impact of poor race relations in America is inconsequential.

Segregationists have made attempts to divert attention from their policies of restriction on Negro rights in the South. Instances in the North of racial discrimination and episodes of violence have been widely publicized in the South. However, the legal support for racial discrimination in the South is in sharp contrast to the legally desegregated situation which prevails generally in the North. This significant difference is not mentioned by segregationist spokesmen in their attempts to draw a parallel between racial developments in the two areas.

For the first time in many years, Negro citizens have in their democratic aspirations the active support of the Federal Government, reinforced by a strong public opinion outside of the South. Many segregationists desire to retain the pattern of Negro participation in American life which prevailed before May 17, 1954. This view fails to recognize the Negro's conviction that the democratic ideal is realizable for every American citizen without unnecessary delay.

The country generally seems to recognize that the quality of race relations in the United States is no longer exclusively a southern or a northern concern. It even goes beyond being a national concern. Increasingly, the American public is recognizing that peoples throughout the world question America's hope and competence to lead a free world if one-tenth of its own people do not enjoy the freedoms it seeks to promote abroad.

A second obstacle is the substantial absence of communication between whites and Negroes. This is deplored by many spokesmen with rarely a constructive suggestion for interchange of ideas or opinions in terms of current realities.

Another factor contributing to unfavorable race relations is the almost complete absence of joint effort or program by

he total citizenry in any southern community to promote the community welfare. These mutual interests of citizens — such as expansion of industry, community beautification, better utility services, better welfare services, or improved recreation — could be harnessed for positive action. The individuals involved in cooperative work for such useful purposes would contribute indirectly but substantially to better community race relations.

The focus of the news in race relations in the South during 1957 was on the process of desegregation in the public affairs of citizens. This was sometimes a distressing story to view, but there were some high moments in the democratic tradition. The record shows that the South has not yet joined the rest of the country in the demonstration of impartial regard under the law and in uniformity of public treatment for all its citizens. Until this occurs, America's attention will continue, no doubt, to focus on the process of adjusting segregation practices to national ideals and to Federal law, both of which support desegregation. Any substantial neglect of current world trends in behalf of human rights delays perilously America's achievement of its urgently needed unity in democratic spirit, its efficiency of national productive effort, and its demonstration of commitment to high moral and spiritual values.

(Taken from *Race Relations in the South* - 1957,
A Tuskegee Institute Report, January 15)

DE FACTO SEGREGATION

A detailed analysis of the racial proportions in the elementary and high schools of one large northern city discloses that a majority of all pupils attend schools in which the percentage of white or Negro students is so great that the environment is one of segregation.

The analysis, which deals with the Chicago schools, is published in the February issue of *The Crisis*, official journal of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The article is a condensation of a statement made to members of the Chicago Board of Education by the Chicago NAACP branch in 1957. Entitled, "De Facto Segregation in the Chicago Public Schools," it indicates that the trend is toward segregation, not integration.

Eighty-seven percent of Negro elementary school children are in predominantly Negro schools, the article states.

Of 355 elementary schools listed in the Chicago school directory, 250, or 70 percent are predominantly Negro (90 percent or more Negro pupils), and 32, or nine percent, are racially mixed, the report says.

Citing further statistics, it states that of 35 academic high schools in Chicago, 25, or 71 percent are predominantly Negro or predominantly white, adding: "In other words, seven out of every 10 Chicago high school students attend de facto segregated high schools in the sense that 90 percent or more of the students in these schools are Negro or non-Negro."

"While some of the elementary schools are de facto Negro because of housing, none of the high schools, is," the article charges.

"In fact, there seems to be a tendency to make or keep the Negro high schools small and to send nearby whites long distances, or to attach branches to white schools instead of near-by Negro schools."

The report holds that "in cost and quality of instruction, school time, districting and choice of sites, the Chicago Board of Education maintains in practice what amounts to a racially discriminatory policy. . . .

The average pupil population of the Negro and racially mixed schools is substantially greater than that of the predominantly white schools. There is a double shift of 19 percent of the mixed schools, compared with a double shift of only two percent of the predominantly white schools. As a result, "the school itself becomes an important contributing factor to the flight of whites from a transition neighborhood" because white parents "picture their children on double shift until high school." Many Negro parents try to enter their children in parochial schools.

Predominantly Negro and mixed schools are assigned "a disproportionate number" of inexperienced teachers.

(News from NAACP, January 30)

BOOKS FOR BROTHERHOOD

ADULT LIST

DEADLINE, by Paul Darcy Boles. Macmillan, 1957. 3.75. Against the stormy background of a crisis in his personal life, George Case, nationally famous as the editor of one of America's greatest papers in the South, takes cognizance of his obligation to speak out, for conscience's sake, on the matter of desegregation. In what is a packed period of action and examination, he achieves a climactic resolution of his problem in triumph and bodily defeat.

DRUM: The Newspaper that Won the Heart of Africa, by Anthony Sampson. Houghton, 1957. 3.50

The white editor of a Negro newspaper in South Africa looks into the heart and mind of the new Africa; a tremendous impact is achieved through an unusual mixture of Cockney gaiety, African idiom, and the grim portrayal of native dignity and squalor.

ISRAEL TO ME: A Negro Social Worker Inside Israel, by J. Ida Jiggetts. Block, 1957. 4.50:

An unusual travel book which not only reflects the author's observations on the life and people of Israel, but which also reveals the genuine warmth and friendship that country extended to her, an American Negro social worker.

THE LOUISVILLE STORY, by Omer Carmichael and Welton James. Simon and Schuster, 1957. 3.50.

How one community faced the issue of social change and solved the problem of public school segregation by careful advance planning and by the full use of local school and community leadership.

RACE AND NATIONALITY IN AMERICAN LIFE, by Oscar Handlin. Little, Brown, 1957. 4.00.

A well-known historian analyzes various aspects of intergroup relations in America, including the origins of prejudice; he makes use of the historical approach for the solution of present racial and nationality group problems.

SEEKING TO BE CHRISTIAN IN RACE RELATIONS, by Benjamin E. Mays. Friendship Press, 1957. 1.50.

A short statement by the President of Morehouse College on the Christian basis for human relations in the area of race, drawn from the premises of Christian doctrine and from the application of Christian philosophy to everyday living.

WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED, edited by Don Shoomaker. Harper, 1957. 3.50

The three turbulent years of desegregation as it has proceeded in the South since 1954 are here recorded in an objective, journalistic report written by staff members and associates of the Southern Education Reporting Service.

CHILDREN'S LIST

JULIE'S HERITAGE, by Catherine Marshall. Longmans, Green, 1956. 3.00

The Negro children in a big city high school choose many ways to combat racial prejudice but Julie selects a way which enables her to keep a balanced outlook on life and to be true to herself.

A LANTERN IN THE WINDOW, by Aileen Fisher. Nelson, 1957. 2.75.

The courageous and dangerous enterprise of the Underground Railroad vividly portrayed through the exciting experiences of a young boy.

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, by Emma Gelders Sterne. Knopf, 1957. 3.50

A sensitively written biography of a great Negro educator which spans the time from the Reconstruction period to the present day.

REACH FOR A STAR, by Florence C. Means. Houghton, 1957. 3.00

A young girl with a background of experience in a northern high school attains racial maturity as she shares in the campus life at Fisk University.

THE STORY OF ALBERT SCHWEITZER, by Anita Daniel. Random House, 1957. 1.95.

(Books for Brotherhood for adults, and young people may be obtained from Paula K. Lazrus Memorial Library, National Conference of Christians and Jews, 43 West 57th St., New York 19, N. Y.)

OTHER SUGGESTED READING

PREJUDICED - HOW DO PEOPLE GET THAT WAY?
by William Van Til

This is the first in a new pamphlet series to be published by the Anti-Defamation League—the One Nation Library. Intended primarily for high school and young adult audiences, the series will present popularly written booklets on basic themes in the field of intergroup relations. 25c.

THE ST. LOUIS STORY: A STUDY OF SEGREGATION.
Bonita Valien

Dramatic account of St. Louis public school desegregation, providing seven-point plan for successful desegregation procedure. Contains on-the-spot quotes from students, parents, and educators directly involved. Author is professor of social sciences at Fisk University. 48 pp. — 35c.

MIRACLE OF SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT: DESEGREGATION IN THE WASHINGTON, D. C. SCHOOLS. Carl F. Hansen.

First-hand account of preparation, planning and policy for successful desegregation of more than 100,000 pupils in District of Columbia's public school system. Dr. Hansen, assistant superintendent of public schools in Washington, D. C., played a leading role in actual desegregation process. 70 pp. — 35c.

SEGREGATION AND THE BIBLE, by Everett Tilson, is being published by Abingdon Press on May 5, 1958. \$2.50 hard back; \$1.50 paper back.

THE CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATION OF RACE, by T. A. Kantonen. Available from Board of Social Missions, United Lutheran Church, 231 Madison Ave., New York N. Y. — 10c.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

In California

A proposal for the creation of a municipal Fair Employment Practices Commission in Los Angeles was taken under advisement following a hearing conducted recently by the City Council's public health and welfare committee.

Submitted by the Los Angeles Committee for Equal Employment Opportunity, the proposed ordinance would make it illegal for any employer, employment agency or labor organization to require of any applicant for employment or membership any information concerning race, color, religion or national origin.

"This is not a problem of minority groups but of the community as a whole, for it is a problem of making democracy work," asserted Rev. Maurice Dawkins, president of the Los Angeles Branch of the N.A.A.C.P.

Harvey Schechter, speaking for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said his group had found many instances of job discrimination in Los Angeles "which are detrimental to our economic and industrial life." . . .

(From *The State Capitals*, prepared by Bethune Jones, January 1)

NEWS FROM AFRICA

A move toward the full integration of secondary schools has been started in Uganda, a small British protectorate in the heart of Africa. The Uganda government will start racial integration in its whole educational system by beginning with schools on the secondary level in 1958.

Though school integration in Uganda schools has not been unknown, there remain a few places in which there is no mixing. Uganda, with a population of less than six million, is one of the world's greatest melting pots.

Uganda's five and a half million Africans are split into three major racial divisions, Bantu, Hamitic and Nilotic. They are of varying racial stock, observe different customs and speak totally different languages.

Controversy in this underdeveloped country has been raised not over the ultimate aim — full integration — but the achievement of it. Opposition to integration in secondary schools is coming from the Africans, who feel that their primary schools are inferior and that in competitive entrance examinations to secondary schools their children will be "squeezed out." Despite large expenditures for education, only about 1,000 of the favored few African children can expect to enter secondary schools this year.

(*Norfolk Journal and Guide*, January 4)

Opponents of South African government's apartheid (racial segregation) policies are determined to stand firm for love and race cooperation.

Officials of St. George's Anglican Cathedral put up a small sign in favor of people of all races attending church together, but supporters of racial segregation removed it. Immediately a new sign measuring 14 by 18 feet was erected on the grounds of the church.

The sign reads "this cathedral is open to welcome all men and women of all races to all services at all times."

The original sign was installed early in 1957 after the House of Assembly approved the new Native Laws Amendment Act which gives the government the right to prohibit Africans from worshipping with whites.

The Most Rev. Joose De Blank, who was installed last October as Anglican Archbishop of Capetown, is an ardent supporter of democracy in the Christian church. He told an overflow crowd of men and women of all races recently that it is "our Christian calling to put God's love into action at any cost."

Archbishop De Blank is the successor of the late Archbishop Geoffrey Hare Clayton, who was a vigorous opponent of apartheid.

(*Norfolk Journal and Guide*, January 4)

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. Unless so stated, it is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes or positions of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.

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